

Amendment to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A method ~~[[for]]~~ of operating a printing system, the method comprising ~~the steps of:~~

selecting a device independent set of desired printer options for a specified print source file, ~~wherein the device independent set of desired printer options map to at least one printer specific command for at least one printer of a plurality of printers;~~

storing the selected printer options in a job ticket;

selecting a printer ~~on which~~ to print the print source file in accordance with the selected printer options stored in the job ticket;

comparing the selected printer options stored in the job ticket to printer capabilities defined in a definition of printer capabilities file corresponding to the selected printer;

if the printer options are available within the defined capabilities, then converting the device independent printer options stored in the job ticket to ~~the~~ at least one printer specific command of the selected printer;

sending the at least one printer specific command and the print source file to the selected printer ~~which is responsive to the at least one printer specific command~~; and

signaling an error if the printer options are unavailable within the defined capabilities of the printer capabilities file of the selected printer.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The method ~~according to~~ of claim 1 further comprising: ~~the step of~~ storing a plurality of definitions of printer capabilities, with at least two of the stored definitions being in differing command formats, wherein the command formats for at least one printer of the plurality of printers map to the device independent set of desired printer options.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The method ~~according to~~ of claim 2 wherein at least three of the stored definitions are in differing command formats.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The method ~~according to~~ of claim 1 wherein ~~the step of~~ converting device independent printer options further comprises:

incorporating into a printable format data file the at least one printer specific command.

5. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method of ~~according to~~ claim 1 wherein ~~the step of~~ signaling [[an]] the error further comprises signaling at least ~~a selected~~ one of:

(a) a message indicating the absence of the desired option capability from printers of a designated type;

(b) a message indicating the absence of the desired option capability from a printer of a type which may optionally have the capability; and

(c) a message indicating that the requested option capability exceeds limits available to a printer which has a limited capability for the requested option.

6. (Currently Amended) An apparatus ~~Apparatus~~ comprising:

a plurality of printers, each having printer capabilities which vary from other printers;  
an information handling system communicating with said plurality of printers for selectively transmitting thereto specific print source files, said information handling system having a processor and memory associated with said processor;

program instructions stored in said memory accessible to said processor and effective when executing on said processor to:

allow an operator to select, for a specific print source file, a device independent set of desired printer options stored in a job ticket associated with the print source file, ~~wherein the device independent set of desired printer options map to at least one printer specific command for at least one printer of the plurality of printers;~~

retain a plurality of printer capabilities files each providing a set of definitions of printer capabilities for a corresponding one of said plurality of printers;

select a printer from said plurality of printers;

compare the operator selected printer options in the stored job ticket with a definition of printer capabilities ~~the printer capabilities~~ defined in the printer capabilities file corresponding to the selected printer and then

if the printer options in the stored job ticket are available within the defined capabilities of the printer capabilities file of the selected printer, then convert the device independent printer options in the stored job ticket to ~~the~~ at least one printer specific command based on the defined capabilities of the printer capabilities file of the selected printer;

send the at least one printer specific command and the print source file to the selected printer ~~which is responsive to the at least one printer specific command;~~ and

signal an error if the printer options are unavailable within the defined capabilities of the printer capabilities file of the selected printer.

7. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of ~~Apparatus according to~~ claim 6 wherein said program instructions when executing on said processor are further effective to store a plurality of definitions of printer capabilities, at least two of the stored definitions being in differing command formats wherein the command formats for at least one printer of the plurality of printers map to the device independent set of desired printer options.

8. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of ~~Apparatus according to~~ claim 7 wherein at least three of the stored definitions are in differing command formats.

9. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of ~~Apparatus according to~~ claim 6 wherein said program instructions when executing on said processor are further effective to incorporate into a printable format data file the at least one printer specific command.

10. (Currently Amended) The apparatus ~~Apparatus according to~~ claim 6 wherein said program instructions when executing on said processor are further effective to signal at least a ~~selected~~ one of:

(a) a message indicating the absence of the desired option capability from printers of a designated type;

(b) a message indicating the absence of the desired option capability from a printer of a type which may optionally have the capability; and

(c) a message indicating that the requested option capability exceeds limits available to a printer which has a limited capability for the requested option.

11. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium storing a computer program product comprising:

program instructions stored on said computer-readable medium accessible to a processor and effective when executing on said processor to:

allow an operator to select, for a specific print source file, a device independent set of desired printer options stored in a job ticket associated with the print source file, ~~wherein the device independent set of desired printer options map to at least one printer specific command for at least one printer of a plurality of printers;~~

retain a plurality of printer capabilities files each providing a set of definitions of printer capabilities for a corresponding one of the plurality of printers;

select a printer from said plurality of printers;

compare the operator selected printer options in the stored job ticket with a definition of printer capabilities ~~the printer capabilities~~ defined in the printer capabilities file corresponding to the selected printer and then

if the printer options in the stored job ticket are available within the defined capabilities of the printer capabilities file of the selected printer, then convert the device independent printer options in the stored job ticket to ~~the~~ at least one printer specific command based on the defined capabilities of the printer capabilities file of the selected printer;

send the at least one printer specific command and the print source file to the selected printer ~~which is responsive to the at least one printer specific command;~~ and

signal an error if the printer options are unavailable within the defined capabilities of the printer capabilities file of the selected printer.

12. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The computer-readable medium ~~according to~~ of claim 11 wherein said program instructions when executing on the processor are further effective to store a plurality of definitions of printer capabilities, at least two of the stored definitions being in differing command formats wherein the command formats for at least one printer of the plurality of printers map to the device independent set of desired printer options.

13. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The computer-readable medium ~~according to~~ of claim 12 wherein at least three of the stored definitions are in differing command formats.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The computer-readable medium ~~according to~~ of claim 11 wherein said program instructions when executing on said processor are further effective to incorporate into a printable format data file the at least one printer specific command.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The computer-readable medium ~~according to~~ of claim 11 wherein said program instructions when executing on said processor are further effective to signal at least ~~a selected~~ one of:

(a) a message indicating the absence of the desired option capability from printers of a designated type;

(b) a message indicating the absence of the desired option capability from a printer of a type which may optionally have the capability; and

(c) a message indicating that the requested option capability exceeds limits available to a printer which has a limited capability for the requested option.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The method ~~of according to~~ of claim 1 wherein the step of selecting the device independent printer options further comprises:

receiving operator input to select a specified printer of the plurality of printers.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The method ~~according to~~ of claim 16 wherein the step of comparing the selected printer options further comprises:

comparing the definition of printer capabilities for the specified printer with the set of device independent printer options.

18. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of ~~Apparatus according to~~ claim 6 wherein said program instructions when executing on said processor are further effective to allow the operator to select a specified printer of the plurality of printers for the specific print source file.

19. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of ~~Apparatus according to~~ claim 18 wherein said program instructions when executing on said processor are further effective to compare the definition of printer capabilities for the specified printer with the set of device independent printer options to determine if the device independent set of desired printer options is within the defined capabilities of the specified printer.

20. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]]~~ The computer-readable medium ~~according to~~ of claim 11 wherein said program instructions when executing on said processor are further effective to allow the operator to select a specified printer of the plurality of printers for the specific print source file.